

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday the gospel takes us to a plain where the multitudes have gathered to hear and be healed. There, Jesus delivers to them the poetic words of The Beatitudes. In Luke's telling, we only get four Beatitudes while Matthew's account we hear eight. However, Luke does give us four "Woes" to go along with the blessings: "Woe to you rich for you have your consolation"; "Woe to you who are full, for you will be hungry"; "Woe to you who laugh, for you will grieve"; "Woe to you when all speak well of you."

C.S. Lewis observed: "Beauty exalts, but beauty also lulls." We should wary of being lulled by poetic beauty and basking only in the blessings. On the other side of each blessing there is a warning against complacency.

Radical Jesus, as He often does, turns the world upside down to show us the other side.

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday – February 15 – 9:00 a.m.

MILLIE DELINKO

(Staff & Residents of York Terrace)

Tuesday – February 16 – 9:00 a.m.

ROBERT DOMINA (Dan & Hermine Murphy)

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ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday – February 17

9:00 a.m. – Mass & Distribution of Ashes

THOMAS KEARNS

(Staff & Residents of York Terrace)

4:30 p.m. – Liturgy & Distribution of Ashes

7:00 p.m. – Mass & Distribution of Ashes

MATT NORKUS (Norkus Family)

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Thursday – February 18 – 9:00 a.m.

JOHN W. JOYCE (Alice C. Joyce)

Friday – February 19 – 9:00 a.m.

MARY HAHNER (Hahner Family)

Saturday – February 20 – 5:00 p.m.

FRANCIS & MARY JANE QUINN (Ellen Quinn)

Sunday – February 21 – 8:15 a.m.

EMILY SIDLER (St. John's Catholic Women's Union)

Sunday – February 21 – 10:30 a.m.

AARON SCHEIDEL, BEN SCHEIDEL, NICK

DICESARE- living intention

(Michael & Emily Scheidel)

CHILDREN'S MASS ...Featuring our Ensemble on February 21st ... there will be no Children's Liturgy on that day. It will resume February 28th.

CANDLE INTENTIONS

B.V.M – IMO Francis & Arlene Smith

St. Joseph – IMO Francis & Arlene Smith

Tabernacle – Special Intention

Sanctuary

1. IMO Mary Hahner by Hahner Family

2. IMO Joseph Kapsha by Sophia Kapsha

3. IMO Sheila Turick by Lorelei Oswald

4. IMO Maureen Kalymun by Bernie Gombola

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO George L. Klassen Jr.

by Pat & Charlene Klassen

SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. – Mass & Distribution of Ashes

Reader: Mary Ann Schweikert

Euch.Min.: Bill Schweikert, Virginia Visot,
Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Megan Ryan, Christopher Wollyung,
Madison Buckingham

4:30 p.m. - Liturgy & Distribution of Ashes

Reader: Sister Maryanne

Euch.Min.: Janet Daubert, Al Hauptly,
Michelle Rehnert

7:00 p.m. – Mass & Distribution of Ashes

Reader: Paul Gombola

Euch.Min.: Albert Nastasi

Servers: Tiffany & Jillian Zerbe, Rachel Brahler

Cantor: Dave Derbes

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00 p.m. – Saturday – February 20th

Reader: Chris Disabella

Euch.Min.: Joan Albo, Virginia Visot

Servers: Angelo, Alexandra, Samantha Disabella

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – February 21st

Reader: Jennifer Daubert

Euch.Min.: Doris Eiler, Carol Forster, Bill Elison

Servers: Allison Darhun, Brent Gauntlett,
Michael Wollyung

Cantor: Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – February 21st

Reader: Mary Hahner

Euch.Min.: Kathy Vicic, Sr. Maryanne, Phil Markovich

Servers: Emily & Sam Synnott, Keifer Luckenbill

Cantor: Ensemble

PLEASE NOTE

The Rectory Office will be closed
Monday, February 15th

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When have you felt the joy of faith?

READINGS

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (February 13/14)

Reading I: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

Ash Wednesday

Reading I: Joel 2:12-18

Reading II: 2 Corinthians 5:20- 6:2

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

First Sunday in Lent (February 20/21)

Reading I: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Reading II: Romans 10:8-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Living the Word

Quiet Receivers

“The glass is either half empty or broken,” said a discouraged detective in one of Jonathan Kellermann’s mystery novels.

Jesus appears to choose the “broken” option this Sunday. The beatitudes he proclaims seem for all the world like shattered glass. Blessed are those who are poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, insulted, and denounced.

Are these really beatitudes?

Beatitudes were an ancient formula for encouraging people to do good. For instance, in our Responsorial Psalm, the first psalm in the bible, we read, “Blessed is the one who does not take the wicked for his guide, nor walks the road that sinners tread.” Psalm 41 says, “Happy those concerned for the lowly and poor; when misfortune strikes, the LORD delivers them..” Jeremiah 17 has “Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord . . . , he is like a tree planted [next to] water that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green.”

Jesus seems to have reversed them. Blessed are you if you do the deed of suffering. Wait, Lord, what do you mean? I am supposed to seek to be penniless and sorrowful and in pain? Why would you encourage us to be in such terrible states?

There have been many opinions on this reversal through history, but your author has his own guess. A person has to be open and empty in order to let God and others come in. If we want to love and be loved we need to have space at the center of who we are.

The principle running through all the beatitudes is this: you are blessed if you don’t cram yourself full. Full of food, drink, pride, drugs, fame, sex, visits to the beach, stunning hair-do’s, flattest abs, shiny teeth, fast cars, every kind of wealth, and of course reputation. Instead,

blessed are you if you stay empty, if you become a spacious home for God, for other human beings, for the long-suffering earth.

That’s it. We are built to be quiet receivers, people who know they are empty and yet are patient. There is only one reality, only one Being who can give us the bread of life, who can satisfy our deep capacity for love. Don’t you want to welcome that being into your soul instead of flying around at fastest pace having fun, fun, fun?

Blessed are you if you let go into his arms.

Fr. John Foley, S. J. of the Center for Liturgy

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

We celebrated last weekend the glorious baptism day of Landon Joseph Trout, son of Thomas and Lindsay (Case) Trout. He became a new creation in Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism and is now joined to us by the gifts of faith, hope and charity. Warmly welcome Landon into our parish family.



PRAY FOR OUR SICK / DECEASED



We remember in prayer those who are ill. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes. Sick: *Tina Dixon, Margie Glunz, Carolyn Foster, Maryann Wychunas, Edward Wychunas, John Woznicki, Faye Cuchara, Scott Rhoades, Roxanne Tutko, James Gombola, Bill Zaharis, Mary Ellen Viduszynski, Dorothy Connor, Elizabeth McAlonis, Francis King, Karla Garland, Cecelia Bixler, Rosalie Campion, Dr. Luis Visot. Paul Dimmerling, Loretta Lonoskie. Deceased: Patrick Hohman*

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 7th: \$ 4,681.50; Dues: \$1,317.00

Fuel & Heat: \$4,118.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving

Looking for a Christian Men’s Group?

Searching for a Group of Like-Minded Men?

Bridge Builders Men’s Fellowship may be the group for you! Meetings begin at 7 p.m. and last approximately one hour followed by a time of refreshments and fellowship.

Please consider joining our group. As the song says, “Come just as you are”. **For more information call Bob Hahner 622-0223.**

Our next meeting is scheduled for

Thursday, February 18th – 7 p.m.

at Salem United Methodist Church, Orwigsburg

And in doing good, let us not fail, for in due time we shall reap, if we do not give up. Gala.6:9

LENTEN OBLIGATIONS

Church law considers every Friday and the Season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting.

The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Friday of Lent.

Who must fast?

All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60th year on his/her 59th birthday.

Who must abstain?

All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

What does fasting mean?

The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

What does abstinence mean?

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence?

Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care. Those who are ill or have a similar serious reason are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

Are there other obligations which we should fulfill?

Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their "**Easter Duty**". They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (March 1 until June 7, 2009). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins once a year.

Catholics also are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity. Parishes are encouraged to continue participation in Operation Rice Bowl.

LENTEN DISCIPLINES

PRAYER: Prayer is a vehicle for developing our relationship with God. Some ways we can pray during Lent are:

- Attending Mass more than once during the week
- Praying the rosary for world peace
- Reading & meditating on Scripture
- Praying the Stations of the Cross

FASTING: Putting aside anything that comes between you and God. Some ways of fasting are:

- Eliminate an item from your evening meal every Wednesday and give that money to the poor.
- Fast from TV, telephone, computer, shopping – anything that clutters your life from God.
- Stop unnecessary arguments – be a peacemaker

ALMSGIVING: Encourages us to deepen our relationship with others. As Christians, we are to give of our time, talents and resources so others can live better. Some examples of almsgiving are:

- Practice Operation Rice Bowl one day a week
- Donate food to a food drive
- Assist a neighbor with some grocery shopping

ASH WEDNESDAY



With the sign of ashes we begin our journey to Easter. With the sign of ashes we are summoned to live with Christ. We make a beginning with ashes on this day and we will end this season in the fire of the Easter Vigil.

9:00 a.m. - Mass & Distribution of Ashes

4:30 p.m. - Liturgy & Distribution of Ashes

7:00 p.m. - Mass & Distribution of Ashes

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Join us for Stations of the Cross each Wednesday during Lent at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. All are invited to prayerfully remember the Lord's Passion and Death.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

... allows us, through the work of Catholic Relief Services, to reach out to the two-thirds of the world who are hungry every day. It began in an attempt to translate the nourishment that so many need to sustain their bodily well-being. Rice Bowl containers have been placed at each of the entrances to our church. Please be generous!

PLEASE NOTE

Last year's blessed palm is now being collected in the basket at the back of church.

LENTEN PROGRAMS AT ST. JOHN'S

Sundays at the Well

Sundays from 9 to 10:15 a.m. in Longinus Hall
'From Ashes to Easter'

Topics each week will be based on the
Readings for the Sundays of Lent
Beginning February 22nd

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Chapel

Encountering the Merciful Savior

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Chapel

Family, Food, Faith

Sunday, February 28th at 5:30 p.m. in Longinus Hall

Feed the Whole Person ... Body, Mind, Spirit

Communicate your values as you

break bread and share good times together.

Make mealtime matter.

Cooking Demo; meal and recipes will be provided.

(RSVP by February 22nd – call the Rectory 622-5470)

Snackin' on Faith

Sunday, March 14th at 5:30 p.m. in Longinus Hall

Snack sharing and game playing as a community.

(RSVP by March 8th – call the Rectory 622-5470)

SUNDAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

... sponsored by the Schuylkill Deanery
Holy Name Society during the Lenten
Season at 7 p.m., including Benediction.
Large print stations books provided. The
schedule is as follows:



February 14 @ St. Matthew's - Minersville
February 21 @ St. Joseph's - Frackville
February 28 @ St. Richard's - Barnesville
March 7 @ St. Casimir's - Shenandoah
March 14 @ St. Patrick's - Pottsville
March 21 @ Holy Cross – New Philadelphia
March 28 @ St. Vincent de Paul - Girardville

FAMILY MATTERS

Valentine's Day – engaged and married. Valentine's Day --- Ain't love grand! On this year's Valentine's Day, we are asking you to give to each other the gift that lasts – your total love and commitment to each other. We ask the Lord Jesus to also give the grace to sustain all married couples in their commitment to each other. Consider strengthening your marriage through going to a Marriage Encounter Weekend.

You pray for my family & I'll pray for yours.

DRAMATIC STATIONS

St. John's Dramatic Stations of the Cross recreates on stage and through song, the final days of the life of Jesus Christ.

We need men, women and children for the cast. There are many non-speaking parts for those who do not wish to assume a speaking role. People are also needed for the stage crew (props, lighting, sound, etc.) or to help distribute the costumes, etc.. If you are a veteran of the Dramatic Stations Presentations, we are looking forward to your return and we ask that you please invite someone new to join you for this year's presentation. If you are new to the parish, we invite you to join us. In addition, it is a great way to meet new people. Many veterans tell us that their participation in the Dramatic Stations is a very meaningful and spiritual way for them to observe the Lenten Season. It is a wonderful family activity as well.



REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday & Thursdays – 7 p.m. – in church



LONGABERGER BASKET & POTTERY CALENDARS

Calendars are available for purchase in the back of church on weekends or at the Rectory during the week. Calendars are **\$5.00 each** and a drawing will take place each day for the month of **March**. Each participant will have 31 chances to win because all winners' tickets are returned to the drawing. This is a great fund-raiser that the Family Guild hopes will elicit your participation and enthusiasm.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Happy Valentine's Day! Today we celebrate World Marriage Day honoring the commitment of a husband and wife to each other. Make your marriage a priority by attending a Marriage Encounter weekend. Call 1-800-787-7679 or go online at www.wwme-nepa.org.

“COME AND SEE”

In the puzzle of your life, where is God?
Do you long for something more, a something that you try to fill with your current studies, job or relationships and still they are not enough?
Come and connect the puzzle pieces of your life by participating in a weekend of prayer, input, reflection and sharing with other women who desire the more of life, too!

WHEN: Friday, March 12, 2010 – 7:00 PM

to Sunday, March 14, 2010 – 3:00 PM

WHO: Single women ages 18-40, who are discerning a call to religious life

Please email S. Kathy Claflin, SSJ at kclaflin@ssjphila.org for your reservation or questions.

HOMEMADE DESSERTS

"St. John's is famous for their delicious homemade desserts"

St. John's Food Committee is in need of your baking talents. Each year we could not succeed without your delicious desserts. If you would like to make.



Jello, Pudding, Pies, Cakes, or anything you can dream up, we will greatly appreciate it. Please make your favorite dessert and bring it to the Russell Building on Thursday's or Friday's during Lent.

NEEDED: Waitresses / waiters



We need volunteers to help with the Lenten Dinners. If you can volunteer one Friday or a couple of Fridays – anything would be great! You can ask anyone who has helped in the past, we always have a great time each Friday. Perhaps you are new in the parish and looking for a way to become involved.

We also need help clearing tables, serving drinks, etc. Please contact Kate or Steve Zagar 622-3193 or call the Rectory 622-5470.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Catholic Women's Union will once again chance off a variety of Theme Baskets each week at the Lenten Dinners beginning February 19th. We are asking for donations for these baskets. Some suggestions include ... paper products, canned goods, tea towels, soaps, lotion, hair products, etc. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Dorothy Stangl 624-7106 with your donation.



CHURCH CLEANING CLUB

We are looking for folks who would be interested in helping to keep the Church clean... on your time.



The time spent in Church cleaning the area where the congregation sits can be a time of work and prayer in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

The church is usually open for meetings and choir rehearsal on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Bring a friend. In the boys' sacristy there is a diagram of the pew floor plan with a list of tasks that need to be done. Bring a few friends and a bucket or two.

Call S. Maryanne for a brief orientation. Call the rectory with your time and we will open the Church.

And he changeth the times and the season. Daniel 2:21

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 15 Rectory Office closed
- 16 Choir Practice – 7 p.m. – Longinus Hall
- 16 Dramatic Stations Practice – 7 p.m. - Church
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 18 RCIA – 7 p.m. at St. Michael's
- 19 Lenten Dinner - 4 to 7 p.m. – Russell Bldg.
- 21 Sundays at the Well – 9 to 10:15 a.m. - LH
- 23 Choir Practice – 7 p.m. – Longinua Hall
- 23 Dramatic Stations Practice – 7 p.m. - Church
- 24 Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. - Chapel
- 25 RCIA – 7 p.m. – Fellowship Room
- 25 Exposition & Confessions – 5 to 7 p.m. - Chapel
- 26 Lenten Dinner – 4 to 7 p.m. – Russell Bldg.
- 27/28 Blood Pressure Screenings after all Masses
- 28 Sundays at the Well – 9 to 10:15 a.m. - LH
- 28 Family , Food, Faith – 5:30 p.m. – LH

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

GIRL'S NIGHT OUT ... BE GOOD TO YOUR HEART

... sponsored by the Schuylkill Medical Center on **Friday, February 19th from 5 to 7:30 p.m.** in the Wall Auditorium, 3rd Floor. Cost \$10.00 which includes hors d'oeuvres and drinks (non-alcoholic). Enjoy each other's company ... meet new "Girlfriends". Wear RED to this fun event to raise Heart Health Awareness. Presenters are Dr. Tariq Hafiz, Cardiologist, Amanda Hollenbach, Dietitian and Crys Zimmerman, Cardiac Rehab. RSVP by Wednesday, February 10th ... Seating is limited ... make checks payable to Schuylkill Medical Center, mail to: Schuylkill Medical Center, S. Jackson St. C/O Debbie Herb, 420 S. Jackson St., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 or call Debbie at 621-5047 with any questions.

BREAKFAST sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St. Patrick's Parish will be held on **Sunday, February 21st** from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the parish center. Menu includes eggs made to order, bacon, ham, sausage, home fries, pancakes, toast, coffee, juice and dessert. Adults \$6.00; Children under 12 \$3.00. Take-outs available.

"SHRINES OF ITALY" St. Michael the Archangel Parish Ladies Guild, Minersville is sponsoring this trip from **October 18 to 28, 2010** ... Price \$2,749.00 which includes 11 days, 15 meals (9 breakfasts, 6 dinners). A presentation by a Collette Vacations representative will take place at St. Michael's Parish Center, 538 Sunbury St., Minersville, on **Monday, February 8th at 6:30 p.m.** For information and/ or reservations please contact Mary Sninski at 570-544-3046.

